



HON. JOHN P. HOPKINS.

Who Has Turned the Face of Illinois Democracy Eastward.

QUEER JOBS FOR BOYS

TASKS THAT MESSENGER LADS ARE ASKED TO UNDERTAKE.

Engaged to Air Babies or Dogs, Assist Inebriated Individuals, Accompany Nervous Shoppers, Keep Turn in Barber Shop, and Do Other Odd Duties.

"They're finding new stunts for the messenger boys right along," remarked the manager of a local district messenger office the other day. "Airing babies and dogs, taking care of jagged individuals, accompanying out-of-town women on shopping expeditions, and jobs of that sort are now old stories for the kids. But every once in a while something new for them to do turns up."

"A couple of Saturday evenings ago a business man well known along F street dropped in and handed me one that I'd never heard of before in connection with the messenger business."

"I want to get shaved over at Blank's," he said, mentioning a well-known barber shop, "in about three-quarters of an hour. The place is always jammed up with fellows waiting for their over-Sunday shaves on Saturday evenings, and I've had some wearisome waits there. I wish you'd hike a kid over there for me to nail a place in the 'next' row for me. He can let on that he's due for a haircut, and I'll drop around about the time he's called to the chair."

"I sent a boy over to the shop, and it went through all right. The youngster peeled his coat and kept a wary eye out that he wasn't skipped in his turn. A couple of minutes before the boy was due to be summoned to a chair as the 'next,' the business man who had rigged up the little scheme dropped in, and when the lad was called by the barber the man just slipped into the chair and the boy donned his coat, with a grin, his task accomplished. The business man told me afterward that two or three of the waiting men in the shop started to register kicks over the transaction until it was explained to them, when they calmed down and laughed over the idea."

"During the races at Benning a race-track man, wearing a lot of jewelry, put a new one over. When he got up to the desk he leaned over confidentially and said to me:

"I want you to send a kid down to So-and-so's pawnshop with this ring, removing a fine three-stone diamond ring from his left hand. I want two hundred on it—and have the boy hurry."

"I sent one of the larger boys on the errand, and he returned promptly with the \$200 and the ticket. The racing man had observed me smile a bit over his scheme, and he smiled along with me."

"Well, it does look a bit flimsy, doesn't it?" said he. "But the racing bunch are traveling around the streets to see what they can see all the time, and if any of them happened to spy me going into or coming out of a pawnshop the word would get around that yours truly was on the crags, which wouldn't suit my game a little bit—see?"

"Not long ago I had another novelty here. A department official that I know well walked in with a shoebox under his arm."

"Say," said he to me, "have you got any kid around this plant with No. 8 feet?"

"All sizes," said I.

"Good thing," said the man, opening the box and pulling a fine pair of patent leather shoes out of it. "I want you to pick out a boy with No. 8 feet and have him jog around town for a day in these infernal contraptions. I bought the shoes yesterday. They slipped on all right when I bought them, but I almost died in 'em at the theater last night. They sort of drew around the instep. If you've got a youngster that can stretch 'em for me I'll pay right for the merchandise, although I'd hate to have to take a chance on paying the kid's relatives for his life in case he failed to survive the ordeal."

"I handed the shoes over to a tidy lad provided with feet that fitted them snugly enough, and the boy wore them around for the day without any discomfort. The man came in for them that same evening, and the next evening he dropped in to say that the shoes fitted him immensely, and that he hadn't been bothered a little bit by the drawing insteps after wearing them all of that day."

"A very much frustrated man came

prancing in here before 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning last," continued the manager, according to the Washington Star, "and leaning over the desk, and addressing me in a voice of suppressed wrath, mingled with emotion, he said: 'I want you to assign a messenger boy to meet me at the main exit of the War Department at precisely 4:02 this afternoon. Pick out a boy with strong lungs, one that can holler so that he can be heard four miles. If you've got one like that in stock. Instruct him to walk up to me, when he sees me emerging from the War Department, and get a powerful, unbreakable clutch on my coat tails. Then he is to holler with all his might "Forty feet of garden hose! forty feet of garden hose!" and keep right on hollering the same all the way from the War Department to the store where I've been due to buy that confounded hose for the last ten days. I've forgotten it every time, and now I'll be damned if my wife'll speak to me at the table on account of it.'

"I wouldn't take a chance on going home to-night without that miserable forty feet of garden hose for any money, and that's why I want you to pick out the most persevering, rambunctious, leather-lunged son of a gun of a boy that you've got on your pay-roll to holler "garden hose" at me sixty times a minute from the instant I break out of the War Department building until I walk out of that store with the garden hose under my arm. If the boy is arrested for disturbing the peace I'll pay his fine, and gladly; I'll be eternally hornswoggled if I'd let a little thing like that faze me when it comes to having my home broken up."

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It is a business axiom that "something for nothing" is an impossibility, and if the expenditure of brains is counted the verity of the axiom cannot be doubted. But apart from thought and invention something can be obtained for nothing sometimes, and never more quickly than by the attempt to turn to some useful purpose

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the by-product of some process of manufacture.

Not many years ago the entire purpose of a hog in a packing house was meat. To-day a hog resolves himself into food, into glue, into paint, into medicine, into musical instrument strings, into fertilizer, and several other things too numerous to mention. The manufacture of coal gas furnishes ammonia and coke. Many chemical processes furnish brilliant dyes from refuse, and the consumption of tar, once a paving material only, is now far greater for its thousand and one by-products, among which are sugar and wine, than for any other purpose.

Paper, once rarest of substances, now is made from wood, and is shortly to be made from the waste hulls of cottonseed. Fine furniture is made to-day from rank weed which until then utilized made the land upon which it grew of no value. Garbage until recently demanded good prices for its removal; now it is bought from cities by contractors, who make from it fertilizers, and, so it is whispered, stock for canned soups.

And so it goes. Little of value is wasted to-day, but that little in proportion to the whole, is a vast field into which the chemical experimenter may go, with the ultimate goal of riches, and the certainty, if only the right course is taken, of finding that will, of-the-wisp, "something for nothing," after which men have striven, are striving, and will strive until the world itself becomes a by-product of the universe and breaks into star dust for the possible gratification of the astronomers of some other planet.—American Inventor.

Fortune's Bottled Beer.
The Fortune Brewing Company has added to its large plant a magnificent bottling establishment. The new works adjoin the brewery on Van Buren street, west of Desplaines, and are fitted up with the latest and most improved machinery. Their capacity is very great, and the quality of the goods turned out of the very best. One of the features of the plant is the arrangement for cooling the beer. Not only has the latest cooling machinery been introduced, but the building in which the bottling is done is adjoined by another building in which freezing apparatus is placed. This keeps the temperature of the very walls at freezing point all the time. The Fortune Brewery produces a beer which is famous 'the world over. Now that its bottling works are completed, no residence should be without it. Telephone "Monroe 40."

The Gentle Bunko Artist.
One of the clever little tricks of the day is the conversion of a circular into a personal communication. The very latest device is to have the circular, in the usual facsimile of typewriter type, printed on dampened paper. The effect delights the heart of the most expert artist in public deception. The slight moistening blurs the ink ever so slightly and leaves the sheet a trifle uneven of surface, thus giving it the appearance of having been especially dictated for the recipient and put through the office copying press. A two-cent stamp completes the little fraud, which harms nobody and may catch a customer.—New York Press.

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